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News Release

MAINE MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PORTLAND, ME—A Maine man was sentenced to 27 months imprisonment yesterday for possessing child pornography following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Jonathan L. Champagne, 56, of Windham was sentenced in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine by District Judge D. Brock Hornby. Champagne will be subject to three years of supervised release after completing his prison sentence. He was also ordered to pay \$100 special assessment to a crime victim's fund.

In April of this year, Champagne was charged in an eleven-count indictment with knowingly possessing a computer disk and other material containing images of child pornography. He was subsequently arrested by ICE, and pleaded guilty to count eleven of the indictment on June 2, 2005.

"Crimes against children are reprehensible," said Matthew J. Etre, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in New England. "ICE will use its unique authorities and strong partnerships to put a stop to predators attempting to hide in the anonymity of cyberspace."

Champagne's arrest and prosecution are part of Operation Predator, ICE's comprehensive initiative to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, international sex tourists, Internet child pornographers, and human traffickers.

To enhance efforts to protect children, ICE has formed partnerships with several non-governmental organizations, including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and World Vision's child sex tourism prevention project, to provide prevention and deterrence information to the public. ICE plans to expand these partnerships in the coming year.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or Operation.Predator@dhs.gov. Additionally, NCMEC can be contacted at 1-800-843-5678 or at http://www.cybertipline.com. Additional information about the operation is posted at www.ice.gov.

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ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.